

10 May 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Presentations Section, Cartography Division, USCR

STAT

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Lilian Whitteker Album

Attached is a copy of the remarks Mrs. Carter made concerning Lilian Whitteker during a White House reception for elderly people. Clearly our project was well received, and I am very grateful for all of your interest and effort.


STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment:
As stated

Remarks by Mrs. Robert Kennedy
at The White House, 24 April 1979

I remember as a young girl in Plains watching my Grandmother day after day in a rocking chair on the front porch, gently swaying back and forth as she picked peas out of the pod. She seemed so tired and frail to me.

Like most children--and indeed like too many adults today--I thought elderly people couldn't do anything but sit and rock, go to church, or be pushed around in a wheelchair.

Yet now I am a grandmother--three times over!

And I must tell you I certainly don't consider myself old--or tired--or frail. Nor do I think of people like Nelson Cruikshank, the President's Counsel on Aging; or Esther Peterson, his advisor on Consumer Affairs; or the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., as ready to retire to the front porch!

They, like you here today, represent a wealth of talent, skills, and experience our nation can ill afford to waste.

And they--like me--have learned that as you get older, being of service to others keeps you from getting elderly!

Before you leave, I want you to take special note of the beautiful painting on the grand staircase.

It was painted by Lilian Whittaker when she was 84 years old. She didn't even begin to receive recognition for her fine paintings until she was in her 70's.

But Miss Whittaker was an innovative artist. She set a marvelous example of accomplishment--in spite of--or maybe even because of--her age. She was in love with the world--and it is illuminated in her painting.